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RUEHNN/AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY 9125
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EAP/MLS AARON COPE AND IO/UNP PAUL WICKBERG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/19/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [BM](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: JAPAN,S RESPONSE TO REFERENDUM IN BURMA DEMARCHE

REF: SECSTATE 26677

Classified By: Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Embassy Tokyo Political Officer delivered reftel demarche on March 18 to MOFA First Southeast Asia Division Principal Deputy Director Shogo Yoshitake. Japan remains deeply concerned about the regime's continued refusal to allow democratic, religious, and ethnic minority groups to participate in the political process, Yoshitake said. The planned May referendum on the regime's draft constitution should reflect the will of the Burmese people. Japan will continue to support UN Special Adviser Ibrahim Gambari's efforts to call on the regime to engage Burma's democratic and ethnic minority representatives in a genuine dialogue, Yoshitake stated.
SCHIEFFER